

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
December 5, 2023

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Kiana Pierre-Louis remotely via Zoom. Select Board members Emily Smith-Lee and Hanna Switekowski were in attendance as were Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. and Assistant Town Administrator, Lauren Barnes.

Public comment period

A resident wished to follow up on past comments about DEI training. The concerns result from a petition involving social media comments made by an elected official. The resident spoke to the amount of fear and hurt in the community due to said comments as well as the refusal by the official and the board involved to address the matter. There is precedent, though non-binding, of action or statement by the Select Board in similar matters in the past.

The Board acknowledged the comments and assured residents that DEI training for board and committee members appointed by the Select Board is being finalized. They encouraged residents with related concerns to reach out to the Select Board directly at any time.

There being no further comments, Ms. Pierre-Louis moved on with the meeting.

Public Hearing – Liquor license transfer, Mandarin Taste

MOTION: To open the public hearing at 7:05 pm.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

Smith-Lee: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Pierre-Louis: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

On October 23, 2023, Town Offices received an Application for Transfer of license for Mandarin Taste of 37 Pond Street. Wei Jia, the representative for FPA Mandarin Taste, has submitted a complete package with all related materials required by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission for consideration of a transfer. As Mandarin Taste currently holds a liquor license, this action has no impact on the Town's license quota.

Alice Hui has owned Mandarin Taste for 34 years and is preparing for retirement. This matter involves a transfer of the existing liquor license as the management of the establishment is changing hands. The Board was introduced to Eric Chen, an experienced restaurateur, who will take over the business.

The current licensee has also submitted a renewal application which the Board will consider under the consent agenda later in the meeting. The current licensee is required to renew their current license to keep it valid through the transfer process.

The Board acknowledged that Mandarin Taste is a beloved Sharon restaurant and has been for many years. The members of the Board expressed their well-wishes for Alice's retirement. Ms. Hui conveyed her gratitude for the enduring support of the Sharon Community.

MOTION: To close the public hearing.
(Smith-Lee – Switekowski)

Smith-Lee: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Pierre-Louis: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To approve the liquor license transfer for FPA Mandarin Taste, 37 Pond Street.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

Smith-Lee: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Board and Committee reappointment interviews

Ms. Pierre-Louis explained that the Board asks a standard set of questions for each candidate:

Please tell us about your personal background, education, employment, things you like to do for fun, etc. and how/if it relates to the committee for which you seek appointment.

Why are you interested in appointment to the particular committee? What goals do you have for your service?

(If applicable) We often have more interested citizens who step forward to serve. If not chosen for the particular committee to which you have applied, would you consider a different assignment?

How can we ensure the work of your committee reflects the breadth of thought that reflects Sharon's diverse community?

James Grasfield and Janelle Dominique of the Historical Commission, Neil Coplan of the Transportation Advisory Committee and Richard Caproni of the Technology and Telecommunications Advisory Committee have expressed an interest in appointment to another term in their respective roles when their terms expire at the end of this year. Each candidate was given the opportunity to respond to the Board's standard questions and explain about the work they do in the community in their role.

The Board thanked the reappointment candidates for the hard work they do on behalf of the community and for their time this evening.

Board and Committee interviews – Board of Registrars

Ms. Switekowski recused herself from this discussion and will abstain from any votes. Ms. Pierre-Louis welcomed Jana Katz and explained that the Board asks a standard set of questions of each candidate:

Please tell us about your personal background, education, employment, things you like to do for fun, etc. and how/if it relates to the committee for which you seek appointment.

Why are you interested in appointment to the particular committee? What goals do you have for your service?

(If applicable) We often have more interested citizens who step forward to serve. If not chosen for the particular committee to which you have applied, would you consider a different assignment?

How can we ensure the work of your committee reflects the breadth of thought that reflects Sharon's diverse community?

Ms. Katz explained that she grew up here in Sharon and graduated from Sharon High School, then continued her education at UMass Amherst where she studied journalism and mixed media art. She worked on the Obama campaign in Seattle and lived in New York for a short time before returning to this area. She has recently begun to learn about and pursue a hobby in crafting pottery. Jana feels that it is a fascinating time to become involved in the election process. She values access to elections and a participatory democracy.

The Board thanked Ms. Katz for stepping forward to be considered for this role. The Board expects to make an appointment at their next scheduled meeting.

Select Board representative to Standing Building Selection Committee

MOTION: To reappoint Emily Smith-Lee to the Sharon Standing Building Committee Selection Committee through June 30, 2024.
(Switlekowski– Smith-Lee)

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the following minutes:
 - a. November 1, 2023 – open session
 - b. November 30, 2023 – open session
- I. Vote to approve the following recommendations of Recreation Advisory Committee
 - a. Maintain closure of Community Center Beach for the summer of 2024 while allowing both residents and non-residents to use Veterans' Memorial Park Beach
 - b. use of updated field permit application form and Memorandum of Understanding per review of Town Counsel
 - c. a peaceful vigil at Veterans' Memorial Park Beach on Sunday, January 7, 2024 from 3:00 to 3:30 pm
- II. Vote to accept the FY23 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) hiring program grant award
- III. Vote to approve a Taxi license for The Right Ride through December 31, 2024
- IV. Vote to approve a Hackney license for Barbar Hanna Saade through December 31, 2024
- V. Vote to approve the following common victualler licenses from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024
 - a. American Legion Inc. Post 106
 - b. Carriage House Pizza Company
 - c. Daubs Highland Manor dba Sapphire Estate
 - d. Ginko Restaurant Inc. dba Sichuan Gourmet Sharon
 - e. Giri Sharon dba Best Western Plus the Inn at Sharon /Foxboro
 - f. Irish Patriots LLC dba Mick Morgans Irish Pub and Restaurant
 - g. Pizza Market
 - h. Sharon Country Club
 - i. Sharon Donuts Inc. dba Dunkin Donuts
 - j. The Savory Spread LLC
 - k. Wagon Wheel Diner

- l. Mandarin Taste
 - m. VFW Arthur I. Boyden Post 7238
- VI. Vote to approve Class I and Class II Auto Dealer licenses Herb Chambers Route One, Inc. dba Herb Chambers Lexus for through December 31, 2024
- VII. Vote to approve the following Alcohol License renewals from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024
- a. American Legion Inc. Post 106
 - b. Bread & Butter
 - c. Daubs Highland Manor dba Sapphire Manor & Inn
 - d. Liquor World
 - e. Mandarin Taste, Inc.
 - f. Mick Morgan's Irish Pub & Restaurant
 - g. Ninety-Five LLC
 - h. Sharon Market
 - i. Sharon Country Club
 - j. The Cape Club of Sharon
 - k. The Savory Spread
 - l. VFW Arthur I. Boyden Post 7328
 - m. Wagon Wheel Diner

MOTION:

(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

(Pierre-Louis – Smith-Lee)

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Town Administrator's report

Mr. Turkington provided the following update.

Town Administrator Updates

Update on work of task force supporting migrant families. A leadership team consisting of Assistant Supt. of Schools Meg Dussault, Public Health Administrator Leandra Mclean, Fire Chief Mike Madden, Assistant Town Administrator Lauren Barnes and me has worked with a number of community faith leaders and community organizers to provide essential, unmet needs for the 16 families placed by the state at the EconoLodge. We have held Zoom meetings to coordinator collections of items ranging from diapers to hygiene products to coats and warm clothing to books and craft supplies. We have established a donation fund to provide laundry services and purchase specialty items for infants and toddlers. A webpage has been set up on the Town website to provide updates to the community about emerging needs and opportunities to participate in welcoming these new residents. Last Friday, we received notice that 96 rooms at the Best Western will be utilized as of December 16 to house the 16 families now at EconoLodge, plus families being relocated from other hotels with contracted space there expiring by December 15.

COPS grant award. The Police Department has received notice of a Federal Community Policing grant for \$375,000 over three years to support the hiring of three police officers. The award provides \$175K in the first year, \$150K in the second year and \$125K in the third year to offset salary and fringe benefit costs, training, and supplies. Given the plan to increase staffing with the construction of retail shops in the Gallery and the potential assignment of an officer as a middle school resource officer, these funds, similar to the

Assistance to Firefighters grant which supported the hiring of four firefighter/paramedics, allow the Town to move forward with this initiative with a phased impact to taxpayers.

Select Board Correspondence/Announcements

We received / exchanged approximately 25 pieces of correspondence between Friday, November 10 and 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 30. Topics included:

- Notices and invitations including: three updates on placement of 16 migrant families at EconoLodge; Cultural Council newsletter; invitation to Hanukkah celebration on December 10; applications for appointment from Hokanson (COD), Smith (Audit), Goyette (COA), Mejia (Cultural Council), Sargent and Katz (Board of Registrars);
- Emails from Sustainable Sharon Coalition offering assistance and encouraging the Board to pursue PAYT and four-tier pricing model to encourage food composting;
- Email from library project representative reporting on status of the building project and email questioning the need to monitor vibrations from construction;
- Two emails commenting on water quality issues as related to PFAS treatment plan;
- Emails and petition criticizing personal social media comments by SC Chair and response; and,
- Seven emails from residents regarding blue ribbons in support of hostages taken in Gaza and support for Israel.

Topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours in advance of the meeting

None.

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:10 pm
(Smith-Lee – Switlekowski)

Switlekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
Pierre-Louis: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Reappointment applications
- Board/Committee application
- Request letter
- Minutes
- Memorandum
- Grant award notice
- Taxi and hackney license renewal applications
- Common victualler license renewal applications (13)
- Auto dealer license renewal applications (2)
- Alcohol license renewal applications (13)